



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Office of the Governor

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Governor

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To: Mayors/Judges, RLOs, DDCs, COGs:

Attached is information from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) regarding the important role the EMS/Trauma System Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) play in planning and implementing some Health and Medical (ESF-8) functions in preparation and response to a disaster. The mission of the RACs and the process they can be incorporated into the state-mandated disaster chain of command are outlined. The information also addresses the concept of Regional Medical Operation Centers (RMOCs). DSHS is supportive of this concept. However, it is not mandated that RMOCs be developed or how they should be structured.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) encourages the inclusion of the RACs in your planning processes. These organizations are comprised of hospitals, designated trauma facilities, and emergency medical services (EMS) providers within geographic regions called trauma service areas (TSAs), can provide expertise in the appropriate triage and treatment of individuals with emergency health care conditions. In most cases the RACs are the current DSHS contractor for the coordination of the hospital preparedness funds that are awarded to Texas from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). RACs' expertise can enhance your disaster management planning processes.

Attached is a map showing county, TSA, and council of government boundary lines and a list of the RACs with contact information. This document is also available on the DSHS website at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/ems/Etrarac.htm>. You may contact Greg Wilburn, State Trauma System Director (greg.wilburn@dshs.state.tx.us) with questions regarding the RACs and Maxie Bishop, State EMS Director (maxie.bishop@dshs.state.tx.us) regarding EMS services. Both are available at (512) 834-6740.

Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we have found that forging partnerships with individuals and entities that are interested in assisting local, regional, and state planning agencies is to benefit the citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Colley".

Jack Colley
Chief

Attachments

cc: EMS/Trauma Systems Regional Advisory Councils